



# INTRODUCTION TO PART 3

## Management Model Plan for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary, Myitkyina of Myanmar

This part of the book examines biodiversity conservation in Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary and focuses on the preparation of a management plan for the sanctuary, which can also be used as a model for other similar areas. Issues covered include evaluation of the sanctuary's current conservation value, detailed information about important species of flora and fauna, problems being faced in conserving the area and recommendations for addressing these, and how to approach creating a model management plan. A report for a workshop 'Preparing a Model Management Plan for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary' is also included.

### Location

Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Myitkina Township, Kachin State, Myanmar. Myanmar lies in between the diverse countries of India and China to the north-west, west, and north-east. Kachin State is situated between 24°-28° 30' N and 97°- 99° E.

### Biodiversity in Myanmar

Due to its geographical position, Myanmar contains flora and fauna belonging to the Indo-Malaysian realm, and possesses an ecological spectrum ranging from snow-capped peaks to tropical rainforests as well as coastal and marine ecosystems. Thus the flora and fauna in Myanmar are unusually diverse, a reservoir of invaluable biodiversity, comprising many rare, endemic, vulnerable, and endangered species. This biodiversity, which is a natural heritage of the country, deserves to be conserved for the benefit of present and future generations. It is the richness of natural resources (for example, its biodiversity, forests, and ecosystems) and their sustainability that are the mainstay of the country's long-term integrated economic and social development.

### Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary

Designated as a reserve in 1913 and then a game sanctuary in 1918, Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the oldest sanctuaries in Myanmar. The area consists of low-lying areas surrounded by high mountain ranges, with a plain on the southern side of the sanctuary, together with a hilly

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and rolling configuration in the north that connects with the Kumaon and Himalayan ranges. This setting gives Pidaung a unique, rich biodiversity.

The area originally designated for the sanctuary was 450 sq.km. However, due to encroachment, the area has reduced to 434 sq.km. Because of the impact of this and other human disturbances the environment is gradually deteriorating. When its conservation value was evaluated by WCS in 1996 it gave a poor result. However the Forest Department of the Ministry of Forests, Myanmar, and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) are now committed to protecting this valuable area and it is hoped that with an integrated approach, good foresight, and full participation of the local authority, the sanctuary will be returned to its former state.

In addition to requiring conservation in its own right, Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary can also be used as a case study for other similar protected areas that are in the same situation, with biodiversity declining and population pressure increasing.

#### **A Model Management Plan**

A training workshop ‘Preparing a Model Management Plan for Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary’ was held in Myitkyina, Kachin State, from 12-14 December 2000, with the aim of assessing the current status of conservation in the sanctuary, to provide recommendations for a new management plan, and to provide an example for other areas facing similar problems. The workshop was a joint venture of ICIMOD and the Forest Department. It forms part of a larger ICIMOD project that has an overall goal of improving biodiversity conservation in the eastern Himalayan region.